

Plague.—The *Military Surgeon* for March contains a very interesting article on "Plague in India" by Major Arthur Henry Moorehead of the Indian Medical Service. . . .

The annual mortality from plague in India since 1896 has been as follows:

1,704 (1896)	577,000 (1902)
56,000 (1897)	851,000 (1903)
118,000 (1898)	1,022,000 (1904)
135,000 (1899)	951,000 (1905)
93,000 (1900)	332,000 (1906)
274,000 (1901)	

A new suggestion, I believe of the Salvation Army, is to import a shipload of cats to India to kill rats.

From an article on "Some Points on the Symptoms and Localization of Intestinal Obstruction Due to Carcinomata, with Report on Four Cases" by Ray Lyman Wilbur, M.D., Stanford University.

In presenting the record of these cases, and the pathological specimens obtained from them, it is my intention to touch only upon the features of each that seem pertinent to diagnosis. They all offer, at some stage, symptoms of partial occlusion of the lumen of the intestine. . . .

From an article on "Impressions of the Killian Clinic" by Charles G. Levison, M.D., San Francisco.

My visit to the Killian clinic was made for the purpose of familiarizing myself with the technique of bronchoscopy, and no time was lost in getting to work. . . .

The course on bronchoscopy is given by Doctor Bruennings, Killian's first assistant, and he is entitled to more than a passing mention, for it is to him all the credit is due for the recent modifications of the Killian equipment. . . .

From an article on "Bronchoscopy" by E. C. Sewell, M.D., San Francisco.

As the instruments used in bronchoscopy and esophagoscopy and the technique of their use have been ably described this evening, I wish to speak upon the value of the method as a means of diagnosis, and also to call attention to the diagnostic features, which should lead us to consider the use of them necessary. . . .

From an article on "Indications for Operations on the Stomach" by Wallace I. Terry, M.D., San Francisco.

Within the past few years many articles have appeared in the literature on the surgery of the stomach, but the subject is such an important one that I felt it might not be amiss to consider a few phases of it and more particularly the indications for operative measures.

From an article on "Our Lack of Business Methods" by K. C. Park, M.D., San Jose.

It is a notorious fact that physicians are known as poor business men, and we have justly earned the title. If men in the mercantile business tended their affairs and made as little of business opportunities as the physicians do of the opportunities that surround them, it would not take long for their fellow merchants to make comments on their lack of sagacity in the business world.

County Societies:

San Francisco County.—Dr. Philip Mills Jones discussing paper read by Doctor Blue on the pathology of plague:

"I would like to supplement what Doctor Blue has said by a few words. Doctor Blue had practically despaired of securing any public interest in this subject, which we would think one of the most vital to anyone living in San Francisco, when, about two weeks ago, he in company with a committee of the state society had a joint session with the directors of the Merchants' Association and the Merchants' Exchange. As a result of that meeting, the fear of the wrath of God was put into the hearts of the Front Street merchants, and they got very busy. . . .

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

By GILES S. PORTER, M. D.

Director

Large Population Served by Full-Time Health Units.—There are at present fourteen full-time county health departments in California and, in addition, ten cities with full-time organizations independent of county units. The territory included in these county units at this time is as follows:

1. **Contra Costa County.**—All unincorporated territory and all incorporated towns except Antioch, El Cerrito, Pittsburg, and Richmond, or 41,472 of the 78,608 population.

2. **Imperial County.**—The unincorporated territory and El Centro and Westmoreland, or 38,910 of the 60,903 total population.

3. **Los Angeles County.**—The unincorporated territory plus thirty-seven of the forty-five incorporated towns and cities. Of the eight not included in the unit, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Pasadena maintain independent whole-time health departments. The population under the county health department is 694,635. The total population for the county is 2,208,492.

4. **Madera County.**—All territory within the county, including the unincorporated towns, a complete unit of 17,164 population.

5. **Monterey County.**—All territory within the county boundaries except Salinas, 43,442 of the total 53,705.

6. **Orange County.**—All territory including the incorporated towns and cities, a complete unit of 118,674 population.

7. **Riverside County.**—Only the unincorporated territory. The city of Riverside maintains a separate full-time health department and the health officer of the county unit is also health officer of the city. This health officer, therefore, serves 63,208 of the total 81,024 population.

8. **San Bernardino County.**—Only the unincorporated territory is included in this unit, or 48,028 of the total 133,900 population.

9. **San Diego County.**—The unincorporated territory plus La Mesa, National City, and Oceanside constitutes the county health department, while the city of San Diego maintains a separate full-time organization. Both are under the same health officer, who serves 193,381 of the 209,659 population in the entire county.

10. **San Joaquin County.**—All territory within the county, a complete unit of 102,940 population.

11. **San Luis Obispo County.**—All territory within the county, a complete unit of 29,613 population.

12. **Santa Barbara County.**—All of the unincorporated territory and the incorporated towns with the exception of the city of Santa Barbara, which maintains an independent whole-time department. Thirty-one thousand five hundred and fifty-four of the total 65,167 population are under the county unit.

13. **Stanislaus County.**—The unincorporated territory plus all of the incorporated towns except Newman, Patterson, and Turlock, or 50,191 of the total 56,441 population.

14. **Yolo County.**—The Woodland Clinic provides full-time health service for the entire county with the chief of the hospital staff as health officer. The population of this county is 23,644.

Throughout this discussion the population figures as determined by the 1930 census have been used. In addition to these county units, the following cities maintain full-time health departments: Berkeley, Oakland, Palo Alto, Pasadena, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Barbara. This entire group of fourteen counties and ten cities provides the benefits of established public health practice for 4,152,254 of the 5,677,251 persons in this State, or 73.13 per cent of the total population. This number of organized health departments materially affects the work of the state department. It is only the extensive outbreak of the very unusual epidemic

affecting several counties which necessitates a state investigator in the whole-time units. Therefore, the Bureau of Epidemiology conducts most of its epidemiological work in the other forty-four counties.

This area under full-time health departments comprising 73.13 per cent of the total population of California insures more complete morbidity reporting than would otherwise be possible. These fourteen counties and ten cities during 1930 reported 88.4 per cent of the total cases of tuberculosis recorded; 79.1 per cent of the total cases of diphtheria; 81.8 per cent of the total cases of measles; and 61.2 per cent of the typhoid fever. In 1931 they reported 87.9 per cent of the cases of tuberculosis; 81.5 per cent of the diphtheria; 72.1 per cent of the measles; and 58.5 per cent of the typhoid fever. Some fluctuations of these percentages would be due to epidemic variations in different sections of the state; also with reference to the incidence of typhoid fever, the rate is higher in the rural territory.

Whooping-Cough Deserves Consideration.—There were 14,044 cases of whooping-cough reported in California during the year 1932, and during January of the present year 1,058 such cases have been reported. More cases of whooping-cough are reported generally during the spring and early summer than during other months of the year. In some years, however, the disease may prevail extensively in the late summer months. Never before in the history of California have so many cases of this disease been reported as were reported last year. The greatest number of such cases to occur during a single year before 1932 was in 1925, when 10,466 cases were reported. . . .

Syphilis as a Cause of Death.—The axiom that "Men do not die of the diseases that afflict them" might especially refer to syphilis. In the "1929 Mortality Statistics" we find just short of ten thousand deaths reported from syphilis. It is only when we sort out from the reported deaths under other classifications those really due to syphilis that we have any idea of its high rank as a cause of death. Locomotor ataxia and general paralysis of the insane are syphilis. Recent researches indicate at least 15 per cent of deaths from heart and blood-vessel conditions are caused by syphilis, probably one-fifth of those from the nervous system, one-fifth of deaths during early infancy, and a significant number from diseases of the kidneys, liver, stomach, and other vital organs. Altogether these mount upward of 100,000 and place syphilis where it belongs, among the first five great killers—syphilis, heart disease, cancer, pneumonia, and nephritis.

Typhoid Fever Still a Problem.—In spite of the fact that the typhoid fever death rate has been reduced greatly, the control of the disease in many communities of the state is still an important problem. This is true particularly along some of the inland rivers, notably in the delta region of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. In those districts, where water from irrigation ditches is used for drinking purposes, typhoid fever control is also an acute problem. In Imperial County, for example, there are 2,460 miles of irrigation canals, furnishing the major portion of the domestic water supply for the residents of the valley. Typhoid fever is a major problem in such a district and it will probably always be a problem in Imperial County. In future years, when the all-American canal is built and completed and the desilting works put in operation, there may perhaps be an increase in the numbers of cases that occur. In spite of educational work undertaken, a large percentage of the population still drinks untreated ditch water. The county health department advocates the use of filters. These can be used only where there is a high canal bank, however. Through their use, a clear water of low bacterial count is made possible. In some places, dairymen are now using filtered ditch water for their cattle. . . .

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

On March 2, 1933, Governor James Rolph, Jr., announced the following appointments to membership on the Board of Medical Examiners:

Brown, Harry V., M. D., vice Magan, Percy, M. D. (who declined appointment), for a term ending January 15, 1935.

Geistweit, William H., Jr., M. D., vice self, for a term ending January 15, 1937.

Schoff, Charles E., M. D., vice self, for a term ending January 15, 1937.

Mr. Walter Linforth, well known San Francisco attorney, was appointed chief counsel for the Board of Medical Examiners, effective March 13, 1933.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners held in Los Angeles, February 27 to March 2, and continued on March 7 owing to the bank holidays, the following changes in status of licentiates was made:

Alexander, Charles B., M. D. License restored February 27, 1933, and placed on probation for a period of three years.

Atkinson, Archibald A., M. D. License restored February 27, 1933, and placed on probation for a period of five years, without narcotic privileges.

Bland, George H., M. D. License restored March 7, 1933, and placed on probation for a period of five years, without narcotic privileges.

Collier, Francis M., M. D. Found guilty March 7, 1933. Probation for five years, without narcotic privileges.

Cornman, Leighton R., M. D. License restored February 27, 1933, and placed on probation for a period of five years.

Dean, Charles J., M. D. License revoked March 7, 1933.

Gardner, George M., M. D. Found guilty February 28, 1933. Probation for five years.

Hindman, Samuel J., M. D. License revoked March 1, 1933.

McLeod, William H., M. D. License revoked March 7, 1933.

Mayo, Woodward B., M. D. License restored February 27, 1933, and placed on probation for five years.

Niemann, Theodore H., M. D. License restored March 7, 1933, and placed on probation for five years, without narcotic privileges.

Pattee, Eliphalet, M. D. License revoked March 7, 1933.

Stewart, Charles M., M. D. License revoked March 1, 1933.

Zachariah, Simon R., M. D. License revoked March 1, 1933.

News Items

The records show that B. D. Johnson on February 27, 1933, pleaded guilty in the Municipal Court of Los Angeles to a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and was given a suspended sentence of sixty days in the county jail.

"Dr. Matthew J. Marmillian, negro physician with officers at 3315 Central Avenue, was lodged in the city jail yesterday on a charge of suspicion of murder, following the death Saturday of Margaret Scott, eighteen years of age, negress of 1529 East Twenty-ninth Street, as the result of an illegal operation" (Los Angeles Times, February 17, 1933).

"Dr. George Anthony Zorb, former police surgeon, charged with shooting his lifelong friend, Dr. Claire Wilson, was freed on \$25,000 bond yesterday, following his arraignment on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon. His preliminary hearing was set for March 15. Doctor Wilson was still in a critical condition at the Georgia Street Receiving Hospital, Chief Surgeon Wallace Dodge stated (Los Angeles Examiner, March 1, 1933).

"Dr. C. A. McDowell, thirty-year-old Covina physician, yesterday was released on \$250 bail after being arrested by deputy sheriffs for failing to report treatment of a gun wound . . ." (Los Angeles Illustrated Daily News, March 9, 1933).

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.